

## 8. Environmental Considerations

The Record of Decision (ROD), issued on January 21, 1993, for the August 1992 Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Continued Operation of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and Sandia National Laboratories, Livermore, California (U.S. DOE, 1992) published the DOE's decision to continue operation of LLNL, including near-term (within 5 to 10 years) proposed projects. One of the proposed actions described in the 1992 EIS/EIR is the remediation of soil and ground water contamination at Site 300.

Section II.E. of the DOE Secretarial Policy Statement on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), requires that when the DOE remedial actions under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 trigger the procedures set forth in the NEPA, the procedural and documentation requirements of NEPA and CERCLA are to be integrated. Integration is to be accomplished by conducting the NEPA and CERCLA environmental planning and review procedures concurrently to avoid duplication, conflicting analysis, and delays in implementing remedial action on procedural grounds. In the past, the primary instrument for this integration was the RI/FS process, supplemented as needed to meet the requirements of NEPA. Each remedial alternative was reviewed and evaluated for potential environmental impacts of the remedial alternatives under NEPA.

However, due to the scope and complexity of the remedial alternatives presented in this SWFS (incorporating over 60 modules), the DOE and the regulatory agencies decided to conduct the NEPA evaluation at a later date. The NEPA evaluation is now underway, and will be issued as a separate report prior to the Draft Interim ROD.

The NEPA evaluation will provide additional information necessary to evaluate potential environmental impacts of each remedy under NEPA, in compliance with the requirements of the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures (10 CFR 1021), Section II.E. of the Secretarial Policy Statement on NEPA (issued June 1994) and the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the NEPA (40 CFR 1500–1508, July 1986, as amended).

As appropriate, this evaluation will include a discussion of the:

1. Relationship of the remedy to other activities at LLNL.
2. Environmental setting and potentially affected environment including:
  - Land use and socioeconomics.
  - Vegetation, wildlife, and sensitive species.
  - Air quality.
  - Noise and traffic.
  - Aesthetics.
  - Floodplains and wetlands.
  - Cultural resources.

3. Potential environmental impacts of the remedy.
4. Potential accidents.
5. Cumulative impacts to human health, land use, air quality, and surface water.

## **8.1. References**

U.S. DOE (1992), *Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report for Continued Operation of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories, Livermore, California*, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. (DOE/EIS-0157).